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Missiles

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China

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1. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security. In this connection, since missiles with certain ranges and payloads can be used as means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction, the proliferation of such missiles has also drawn increasing attention in the international community.

2. Missile proliferation is closely related to the global and regional security environment. The solution of this issue should therefore be linked to the establishment of a new security concept, seeking security through cooperation. It should be strongly emphasized that the practice of power politics and the abuse of force in international affairs should be abandoned to ensure the security of all countries.

3. To prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery requires the participation of the entire international community. The Treaty of Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention are successful examples in this regard. These treaties have laid an important legal foundation for the international efforts in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. A universal and non-discriminatory multilateral regime should also be set up in the field of missile non-proliferation. Some existing export control regimes with exclusive membership have proven to be ineffective in solving the problem of missile proliferation.

4. Many missile-related technologies have dual military and civil uses. The establishment of a missile non-proliferation regime should therefore be conducive to the promotion of international cooperation on the peaceful use of outer space.

5. To exaggerate the threat of missile proliferation and to employ such threats as an excuse for pursuing a missile defence system that disrupts the global strategic balance and stability will not be conducive to solving the missile proliferation problem. On the contrary, it will only further complicate the problem and even increase the risk of proliferation. Missile defence itself has become one of the most prominent issues in this field.

6. China supports the United Nations in playing an active and important role in addressing the issue of missiles. The Panel of Governmental Experts on Missiles in All Their Aspects should, in order to ensure undiminished security for all countries, study and discuss issues such as the relationship between the regional security environment and missile programmes, assessment of "missile threat", missile defence programmes, and the establishment of global missile non-proliferation regime in a progressive manner.